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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/686,210	10/11/2000	Galyn A. Schulz	2107 (FJ-98-4)	6128

7590 03/04/2002

Michael W. Ferrell, Esq.
Ferrell & Ferrell L.L.P.
90 Crystal Run Road, Suite 401
Middletown, NY 10941

EXAMINER

YAN, REN LUO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/686,210	SCHULZ, GALYN A.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ren L Yan	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>2</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schulz(5,269,983).

The patent to Schulz teaches the structure of an embossing apparatus as claimed including a steel embossing roller 50 having protuberances 52 thereon corresponding to a desired embossed pattern, and a resilient rubber roller 54 having recesses 56 provided corresponding to the embossed pattern of the protuberances 52. The resilient rubber roller 54 can work the paper as it is deformably engaged with the steel roller to generate embossed patterns on the paper. See the entire Schulz patent for details.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4 and 6-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulz in view of Grupe(5,215,617). The patent to Schulz teaches the embossing method and apparatus as claimed except that the hardness of the steel roller and the hardness of the rubber roller were not given. Grupe teaches in a similar embossing apparatus using steel and rubber roller pair the teaching of providing the rubber roller having a hardness of 100 Shore A or less, preferably from about 50 to about 80 Shore A hardness because the rubber materials with that

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hardness ratings can be easily laser engraved to the desired embossing element shape and are more forgiving to the web being embossed such that the strength of the web is not degraded. See column 2, lines 10-17 in Grupe for example. It would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the embossing apparatus of Schulz with the rubber materials having a hardness of 100 Shore A or less, preferably from 50-80 Shore A hardness for the ease of manufacture of the rubber roller and the improved quality of the embossed web product. With respect to the hardness of the steel roller used in either the Schulz or the Grupe patents, since the softer rubber roller can have a hardness of up to a 100 Shore A, the more rigid steel roller will have to have a Shore A hardness of at least 90 as claimed in order for the steel/rubber embossing roller pair to work properly as intended. With respect to claim 10, when the rubber roller of Schulz is worn, one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to replace such a worn rubber roller with one having Shore A hardness in the range of 50-80 as taught by Grupe in order to prolong the service life of the embossing apparatus and also to enjoy the benefits of using such a rubber roller as discussed above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L Yan whose telephone number is 703-308-0978. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 703-305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-5841 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ren yan", with a stylized, cursive script.

Ren L Yan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854

Ren Yan
March 1, 2002